

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator ISAKSON and I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIEUTENANT ROBERT WILSON COLLINS

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me and my colleague, Senator ISAKSON, in honoring the life and commitment of 1LT Robert Collins of Tyrone, GA.

Lieutenant Collins grew up in the small town of Tyrone in Fayette County, where he attended Sandy Creek High School, played football on Friday nights, where he became a standout student that would take him to the halls of West Point, and where he attended Hopewell United Methodist Church with his family every Sunday morning.

On the 7th of April 2010, Lieutenant Collins made the ultimate sacrifice when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle on the streets of Mosul, Iraq. He was 24 years old.

To me, it is a particularly difficult situation because Lieutenant Collins was one of my appointees to West Point. He graduated from West Point in 2008 and became an officer in B Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Regiment of the Armor Unit, 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Stewart, GA. He deployed to Iraq in the autumn of 2009.

Lieutenant Collins served as his platoon's commander. While in Iraq, his unit was charged with improving security and the quality of life for the Iraqi people. He and his men also provided security for the recent successful Iraqi elections. They were dedicated to the goal of a democratic Iraq and sought to help its people lead normal, safe lives.

Robert's friends have described him as a man of great compassion. He was a natural leader who truly found a calling in the honor and patriotism of service in the U.S. Army. He has been described by his superiors as a young man who performed his duties courageously, without hesitation, and without reservations because, after all, he was a soldier in the U.S. Army.

As a small token of gratitude and remembrance for the ultimate sacrifice paid by Lieutenant Collins, I am pleased to join Senator ISAKSON in urging our colleagues to rename the post office in Tyrone, GA, as the "1st Lt. Robert Wilson Collins Post Office Building" in Lieutenant Collins' honor. Nothing we can do can ever repay the

debt and the ultimate sacrifice this young man has made, but this will ensure his name lives on, not just in his friends' and families' hearts but in the heart of his hometown.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I am pleased to join the senior Senator from Georgia, my friend SAXBY CHAMBLISS, to pay tribute today to Robert Collins.

This naming of a post office is most appropriate in Tyrone, GA, and it is most appropriate because of the great sacrifice of this young man, whose story, as Senator CHAMBLISS says, is compelling.

One interesting point I wish to make is that he was the son of two lieutenant colonels retired from the U.S. military. His mother, LTC Sharon L.G. Collins, and his father, LTC Burkitt "Deacon" Collins, spent more than 20 years in the U.S. military.

His mother said: We never asked him to follow us into the family business—being the military—but he did follow us into the family business in large measure because of what happened on 9/11/2001.

Following that tragic day in American history when he watched the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers, he expressed to his parents a desire to join the U.S. military. His mother responded, along with his father, by making an appointment for him to visit West Point. They dressed him up in his very best outfit and took him to West Point.

Upon leaving Tyrone, one of his friends stopped him before he got in the car to go to West Point and said: Why are you dressed up so well?

He said: Because my mom and dad are colonels.

That is the kind of young man he was—respect for his parents, the U.S. military, and the greatness of our country.

He applied to West Point. Senator CHAMBLISS appointed him to West Point, and he was there with distinction. And later in 2009, he went off to serve the U.S. military. Unfortunately, on April 7, he made the ultimate sacrifice for the people of this country.

It is only appropriate in every way possible that we pay tribute to the young men and young women who sacrifice for us so all of us can enjoy the freedom of our country.

I am pleased, I am honored, and I am proud to join Senator CHAMBLISS in naming this post office in Tyrone, GA, after First Lieutenant Collins, who was a member of B Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING MAURICE "MO" BAILEY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, as I mentioned, this has been a very difficult week for our military and our veterans communities in the State of Alaska. On Tuesday of this week we came together in Sitka, at Sitka Air Station, the Coast Guard air station there, to honor the memory of three members of the U.S. Coast Guard who gave their lives in a very tragic accident, the crash of an H-60 Jayhawk helicopter. This was off the coast of Washington on July 7. It was a real tragedy for the Coast Guard families as a whole. The community of Sitka is one that truly embraces the men and the women of the Coast Guard. In addition to being the ones who pluck the fishermen out of the sea when they are in jeopardy or at risk, these are the men and women who are helping in the local churches, helping with Boy and Girl Scouts, coaching the kids. They are truly members of our community. The loss of these three men is very painful for us all.

I attended that ceremony on Tuesday in the hangar in Sitka. After I left, I took the flight back to Washington, DC. I took the redeye. When I arrived on Wednesday morning I was informed of the passing of a very dear friend of mine, a gentleman who made a profound contribution to the lives of so many of Alaska's veterans. I am speaking today of an individual by the name of Maurice Bailey. We called him Mo. Mo was from Wasilla, AK, and he was a disabled Vietnam era veteran who fought the VA bureaucracy to obtain his earned benefits.

He fought for himself and he was successful in that, but he went beyond that. He devoted the rest of his life to ensuring that the challenges of Alaska's veterans were not forgotten. He focused his efforts on those veterans who live in more than 200 rural communities that are not connected by road to the rest of Alaska or certainly to the continental United States. These are the communities of bush Alaska.

In 2003, Mo founded Veterans Aviation Outreach. This is an organization of volunteer pilots who travel to rural Alaska, to the communities that are hundreds and hundreds of miles from the nearest VA facility. He and his other volunteers did what the VA simply was not doing. They sought out those forgotten veterans and helped them in every way they possibly could.

When you listen to the stories about what Mo did and what the Veterans Aviation Outreach group did, it was a little bit of everything. They helped the veterans fill out applications for their benefits. Oftentimes it meant volunteering to fly a veteran to Anchorage for a medical appointment or perhaps raising the money for an airplane